

Georgia DOT Bridge No. 215-00001D-00936N
Spanning U.S. 27/State Route 1/Fourth Avenue
Columbus
Muscogee County
Georgia

HAER No. GA-124

HAER
GA
108-COLM,
39-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Georgia DOT Bridge No. 215-00001D-00936N

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Location: Fourth Avenue between Sixteenth and
Seventeenth Streets spanning U.S.
27/S.R. 1/Fourth Avenue in the City of
Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia

U.S.G.S. Columbus Quadrangle (7.5),
Zone 16
Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates:

	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Easting</u>
Date of Construction:	3594760	689420
	1938	

Engineers/Builder: Designed and constructed by the State
Highway Department, Bridge Office.

Present Owner: Georgia Department of Transportation
2 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Present Use: Georgia DOT Bridge No.
215-00001D-00936N is a railroad
overpass bridge that carries the
eastbound and westbound tracks of the
Central of Georgia Railroad.

Significance: Georgia DOT Bridge No.
215-00001D-00936N is a reinforced
concrete slab railroad overpass bridge
that was constructed in 1938. This
bridge is significant for its design
and workmanship, and for its role in
the development of transportation and
commercial activity in the City of
Columbus and Muscogee County, Georgia.

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Date: November 1998

Georgia DOT Bridge No. 215-00001D-00936N is a reinforced concrete slab railroad overpass bridge that was constructed in 1938. The bridge measures 62 feet in length, and has a vertical clearance of 24.5 feet. Architectural details of interest include reinforced concrete approach walls and arched concrete balustrades. Georgia DOT Bridge No. 215-00001D-00936N carries the eastbound and westbound tracks of the Central of Georgia Railroad. Historically, this line ran between Birmingham, Alabama and Union Station in Columbus, Georgia.

Georgia DOT Bridge No. 215-00001D-00936N is located on Fourth Avenue between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets spanning U.S. 27/S.R. 1/Fourth Avenue in the City of Columbus, Georgia. The bridge functions as a railroad overpass that carries the eastbound and westbound tracks of the Central of Georgia Railroad. The area in which the bridge was constructed was originally known as North Commons, and was developed at the turn-of-the-century (1). North Commons was located north of the downtown area in Columbus, and originally was comprised of several blocks of small single-family frame residences. Given its proximity to the Central of Georgia Railroad, a few industrial establishments also historically were a part of the North Commons neighborhood (2).

A review of the available city directories of Columbus, Georgia from 1898 through 1937 demonstrates that the North Commons area was historically a predominantly African-American residential neighborhood (3).

(1) Muscogee County Courthouse, Columbus, Georgia, Deed Book 107 Page 402, 1909.

(2) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Columbus, Georgia, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company), 1907, page 38 and Volume 1, 1929, Pages 70-1.

(3) Columbus, Georgia City Directory, 1898-9, (Charleston, South Carolina: William H. Walsh Directory Company), p. 87. Columbus, Georgia City Directory, 1902, (Charleston, South Carolina: William H. Walsh Directory Company), p. 128 and 257. Columbus, Georgia City Directory, 1906, (Charleston, South Carolina: William H. Walsh Directory Company). Polk's Columbus (Muscogee County, Georgia) City Directory, 1937, (Birmingham, Alabama: R.L. Polk and Company), p. 118, 502 and 605.

The 1907 and 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Columbus, Georgia also show the presence of a "Negro" church, known as the Metropolitan Baptist Church, located on Third Avenue between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets (4). Today much of the area historically known as North Commons is characterized by late-twentieth century commercial development and vacant lots. Only a few of the single family vernacular houses that represent the original pattern of residential development in this area are still extant.

Georgia DOT Bridge No. 215-00001D-00936N is significant for its design and workmanship, and for its role in the development of transportation and commercial activity in the City of Columbus and Muscogee County, Georgia.

(4) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Columbus, Georgia, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company), 1907, page 38 and Volume 1, 1929, Pages 70-1.

